



Cambridge Police Department BridgeStat

May 2021

Produced by the Crime Analysis Unit



Part I Total Crime

An analysis of serious crime statistics for the first five months of 2021 indicates a persistent Covid period increase of 10% in the Part One index total for Cambridge when compared with 2020. Over the first 21 weeks of this year, there were 977 serious crimes reported in the City. For the same time period in 2020, the combined total for Murder, Rape, Robbery, Aggravated Assault, Burglary, Larceny & Auto theft was 891 incidents, 86 fewer than this year. When measured against the five-year average, a 13% escalation in the crime index has been recorded.

Further analysis of the crime totals between January 1st & May 31st of 2021 indicates that while violent crimes recorded a modest 7% rise when compared with last year, property crimes surged upward 10% with 78 additional crimes reported when compared with the first five months of 2020. The violent crime breakdown in the City through May 31st consisted of one homicide, ten rapes, 22 robberies and 82 aggravated assaults.

The 24% increase in larcenies from motor vehicles and the 70% vault upward in larcenies of bicycles when compared with the first five months of 2020 have been the key trend indicators fueling the crime rise so far in 2021. These two categories of larceny accounted for 41% of the total crime index so far in 2021.

When analyzing the serious crime totals of May 2021 versus the previous month of April, there has been an increase of 9% in the number of index incidents with 16 additional crimes reported.

	4 Week Snapshot			Year to Date			Five Year	
	4/6/21 - 5/3/21	5/4/21 - 5/31/21	Change	2020	2021	Change	Avg	Change
Total Violent Crime	19	27	42%	107	115	7%	106	8%
Total Property Crime	166	174	5%	784	862	10%	760	13%
Total Part I Crime	185	201	9%	891	977	10%	865	13%



Part I Property Crime

Analysis of property crime totals for the first five months of 2021 points to a 10% increase when measured against the 2020 totals and a 13% growth above the five-year average, with 78 additional incidents above the total through May 31st of last year and 102 additional crimes above the 760 forecasted for this time period.

Two of the major property crime categories recorded significant increases when measured against the first 21 weeks of 2020, most notably a 24% uptick in larceny of motor vehicles, fueled by a regional pattern of the thefts of catalytic converters and a 70% spike in bike thefts, which is expected to keep rising now that the warmer weather has arrived.

	<u>4 Week Snapshot</u>				<u>Year to Date</u>			<u>Five Year</u>	
	4/6/21 - 5/3/21	5/4/21 - 5/31/21	Change		2020	2021	Change	Avg	Change
Burglary	10	9	-10%		81	68	-16%	89	-24%
Commercial Break	5	3	-40%		24	28	17%	18	56%
Housebreak	5	6	20%		57	40	-30%	71	-44%
Larceny	146	159	9%		676	760	12%	639	19%
Larceny (Misc)	2	4	100%		12	14	17%	13	8%
Larceny from Building	7	12	71%		70	50	-29%	100	-50%
Larceny from MV	27	28	4%		138	171	24%	113	51%
Larceny from Person	10	8	-20%		34	34	0%	54	-37%
Larceny from Residence	30	16	-47%		163	167	2%	115	45%
Larceny of Bicycle	52	69	33%		135	229	70%	97	136%
Larceny of Plate	4	1	-75%		2	10	400%	7	43%
Larceny of Services	0	2	IN-CALC		2	3	50%	7	-57%
Shoplifting	14	19	36%		120	82	-32%	132	-38%
Auto Theft	10	6	-40%		27	34	26%	32	6%
Total Property Crime	166	174	5%		784	862	10%	760	13%



Part I Violent Crime

For the first five months of 2021, there were 115 violent crimes recorded in Cambridge, eight incidents above last year (+7%) and nine additional violent crimes (+8%) over the 106 incidents forecasted for the first 21 weeks of the year.

There have been 22 robberies registered in the first five months of 2021—seven categorized as commercial and 15 classified as street incidents—registering a 15% decrease of four fewer crimes when compared with 2020. Ten rapes have been reported so far in 2021, three incidents above the number recorded for this same time frame last year.

On Saturday 3/27, there was a fatal shooting that occurred at approximately 12:40 a.m. on Pemberton Street. The victim was reportedly located unconscious outside his vehicle by a passerby who called 911. The victim was transported to Mount Auburn Hospital where he later died. The victim has been identified as Xavier Louis-Jacques, 19, of Cambridge.

	<u>4 Week Snapshot</u>			<u>Year to Date</u>			<u>Five Year</u>	
	4/6/21 - 5/3/21	5/4/21 - 5/31/21	Change	2020	2021	Change	Avg	Change
Homicide	0	0	IN-CALC	1	1	0%	1	0%
Rape	3	3	0%	7	10	43%	9	11%
Robbery	3	7	133%	26	22	-15%	25	-12%
Commercial Robbery	1	2	100%	5	7	40%	8	-13%
Street Robbery	2	5	150%	21	15	-29%	17	-12%
Aggravated Assault	13	17	31%	73	82	12%	71	15%
Total Violent Crime	19	27	42%	107	115	7%	106	8%



MURDER

No Patterns

- On Saturday 3/27, there was a fatal shooting that occurred at approximately 12:40 a.m. on Pemberton Street. The victim was reportedly located unconscious outside his vehicle by a passerby who called 911. The victim was transported to Mount Auburn Hospital where he later died. The victim has been identified as Xavier Louis-Jacques, 19, of Cambridge. The investigation is ongoing.
- On April 23, 2020, Jose Bermudez was arrested for the fatal daylight stabbing of 33-year-old Danilo Perez in Central Square on April 14. Bermudez and Perez were both part of the homeless community and were known to each other. Bermudez is being held without bail. This was the first homicide reported in Cambridge since January of 2019 and it ended up being the only homicide recorded in 2020.
- There was one murder in Cambridge in 2019. The Middlesex DA's Office and the Cambridge Police are asking for public assistance regarding the ongoing investigation into the fatal incident that occurred in the New Street area of Danehy Park around 6:30PM on the night of January 2nd, 2019. This incident is being investigated as a homicide. The preliminary investigation suggests that the victim, 60-year-old Paul Wilson, died as a result of blunt force trauma and that robbery does not appear to have been the motive.
- On July 22, 2018, 15-year-old Richelle Robinson of Cambridge died following an assault in which she was shoved to the ground on Cambridge Street. The Office of the Chief Medical Examiner later ruled the cause of death to be blunt force trauma. On July 30, 2019, following an investigation, Isaias Plaza (4/7/00, homeless) was arraigned on charges of manslaughter and assault and battery causing serious bodily injury in connection with Robinson's death. Plaza plead guilty to manslaughter on March 26, 2021 and was sentenced to 2.5 years.

Percent Change*

Last 4 Weeks

In-Calc

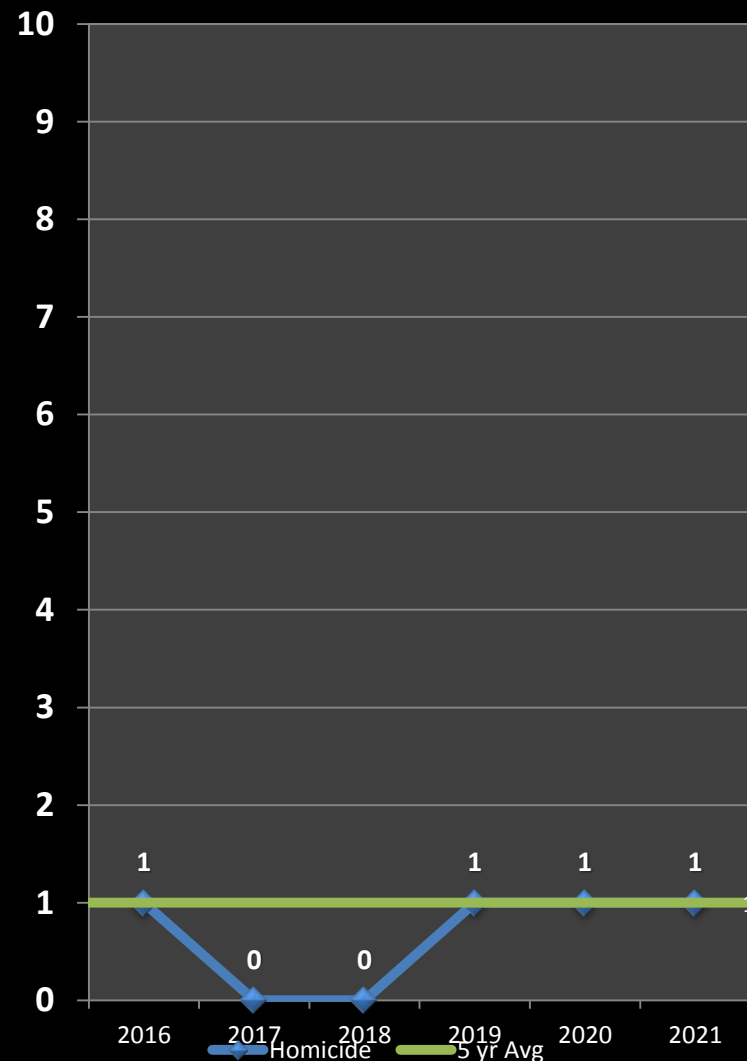
Previous Year

0%

5-Year Average

0%

*IN -CAL: Percentages are not calculated for numbers so small as to present a statistically misleading percentage.





RAPE

No Patterns

- After recording seven rapes during the first four months of 2020, that number increased by three to ten incidents through May 31st of this year. The sexual assaults so far in 2021 have been classified as five domestic situations, three involving acquaintances as the predator, a contact incident, and a homeless/blitz scenario in Harvard Square that is under investigation.
- There were 27 rapes reported in 2020, one less than in 2019. The five-year average for 2020 projected to 28 rapes being recorded in Cambridge, which was one above the final total.
- The 27 rapes in Cambridge in 2020 were categorized in the following manner: nine incidents were chronicled as domestic situations, nine were classified as acquaintance assaults, five were contact incidents, and four were blitz scenarios, one of which was an incident in the Alewife section of the City that remains under investigation.
- Given the tendency for rape statistics to fluctuate each year, projecting future totals is a risky business at best. The actual number of stranger-to-stranger rapes each year in Cambridge—between one and five—remains extremely low.

Percent Change*

Last 4 Weeks

Previous Year

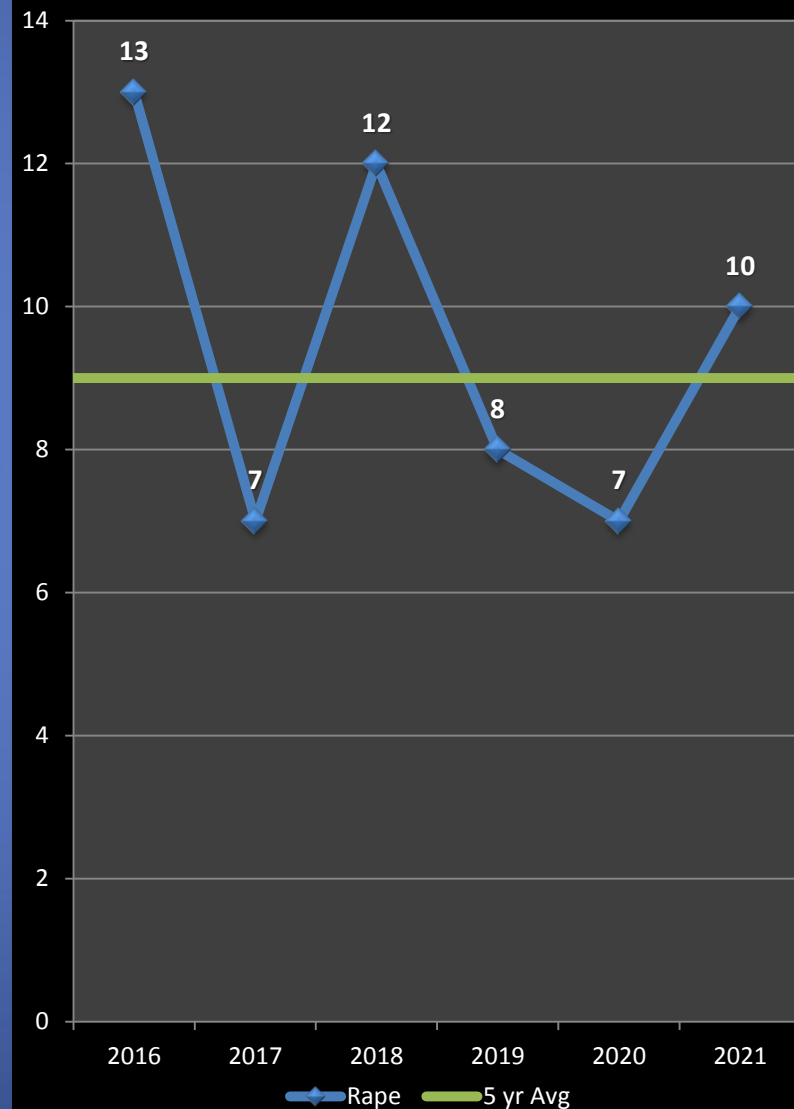
5-Year Average

0%

+43%

+11%

*IN -CAL: Percentages are not calculated for numbers so small as to present a statistically misleading percentage.





AGGRAVATED ASSAULT

No Patterns

- The aggravated assault total for the first five months of 2021 was nine incidents (+12%) above the total for the same time period in 2020. The 82 aggravated assaults reported over the first 21 weeks of the year was 11 crimes (15%) above the 71 incidents forecasted for the five-year average.
- The 82 aggravated assaults reported through May 31st of 2021 were composed of the following classifications: 17 unprovoked scenarios; 15 altercations between acquaintances; 12 domestic altercations; 7 homeless assaults; 6 psychotic episodes; 5 traffic & parking related assaults; 5 affrays; 4 landlord/neighbor; 4 juvenile incidents; 3 shop owner/patron; 2 drug deals and one each for workplace incidents and assaults against police officers.
- Through May 31st of this year, there have been six reports of shots fired, including the fatal shooting on 3/27/21 in North Cambridge. In the non-fatal events, two shots fired incidents resulted in casings recovered but no injuries in The Port in March, a victim was non-fatally shot in March in East Cambridge, and two victims each were non-fatally shot in two separate incidents in The Port in May. (See map on slide 9 for more info)
- Through May 31st of last year (2020), two shots fired incidents were reported. By the end of 2020, there had been seven reports of shots fired, none of which resulted in any injuries.

Percent Change

Last 4 Weeks

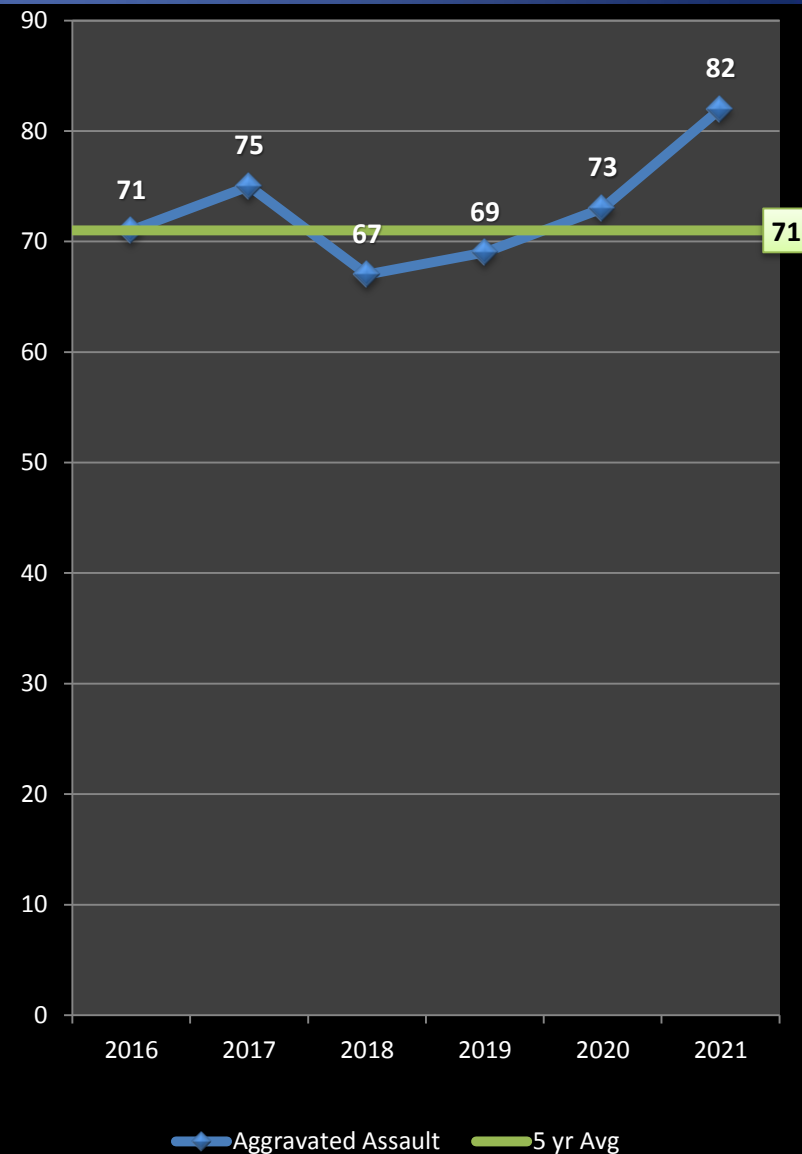
+31%

Previous Year

+12%

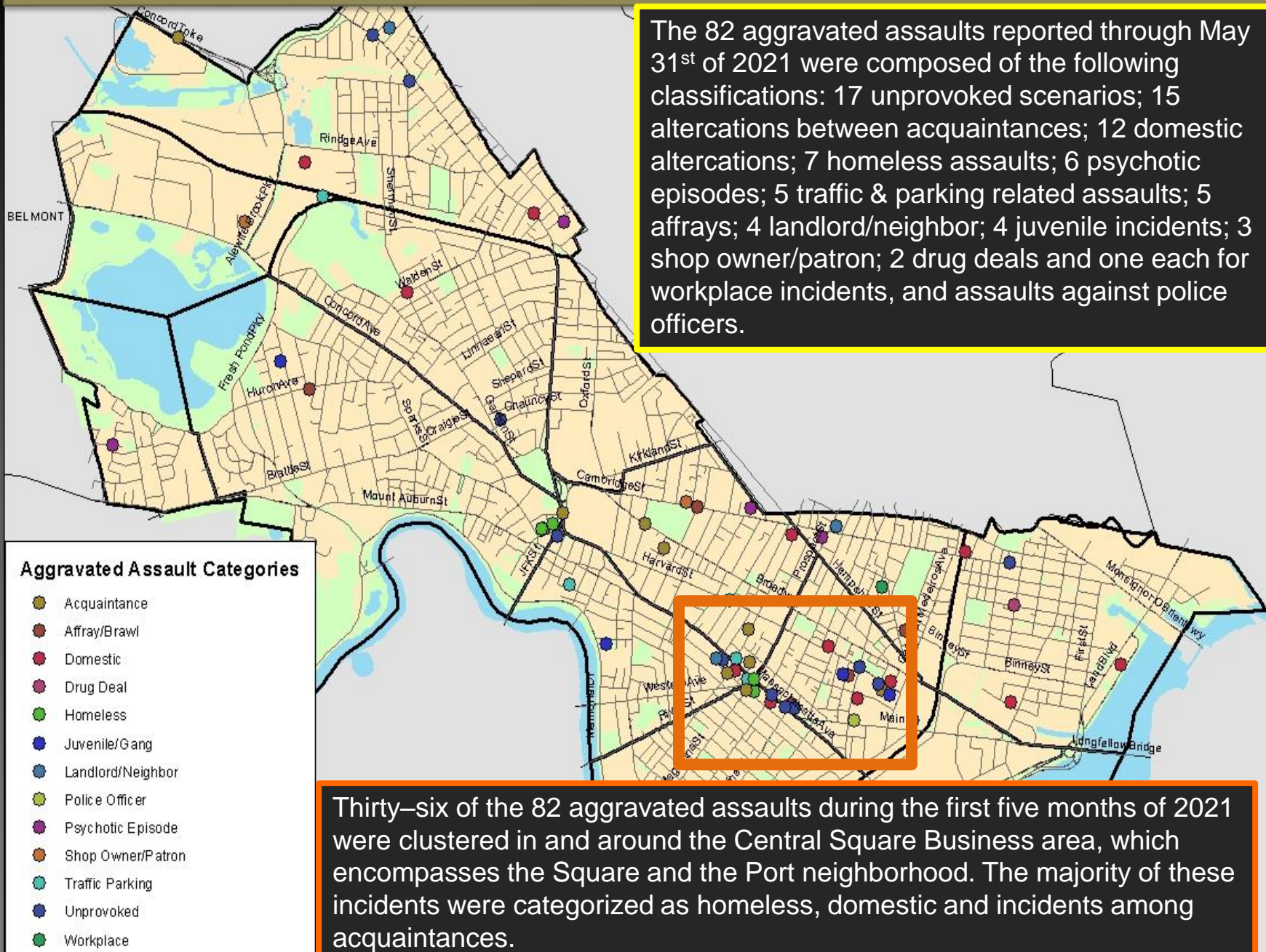
5-Year Average

+15%





Geographic Breakdown of Aggravated Assaults: 1.1.21 – 5.31.21





Shootings & Shots Fired in Cambridge: 1.1.21 – 5.31.21

Cambridge Police BridgeStat

May
2021

There have been six shots fired/shooting incidents in Cambridge through 5.31.21, including the first homicide of the year. Two shots fired incidents were reported in Cambridge through the same time period in 2020.

Shots Fired on 3.26 at 8:30pm
Harvard St & Windsor St
ShotSpotter alert. One shell casing recovered. No injuries reported.

Shooting on 3.2 at 1:30am
Fifth St & Spring St
No ShotSpotter alert. 33-year-old male sustained non-fatal gunshot wound to the chest. Two abandoned vehicles, a firearm, a knife, and a large amount of crack cocaine were located in the area. Investigation is ongoing



Homicide on 3.27 at 12:40am
100 block of Pemberton St
No ShotSpotter alert. 19-year-old Cambridge male found unconscious, suffering from multiple gunshot wounds. Victim was pronounced deceased at a local hospital. Investigation is ongoing.

Shooting on 5.19 at 12:10am
100 block of Cherry Street
ShotSpotter alert. 26-yr-old male and 35-yr-old male, both of Cambridge, sustained non-fatal gunshot wounds. Six shell casings recovered. Investigation is ongoing

Shots Fired on 3.24 at 3:30pm
100 block of Cherry St
No ShotSpotter alert. One shell casing recovered. No injuries reported.

Shooting on 5.10 at 2:15am
100 block of Harvard Street
ShotSpotter alert. 30-yr-old male formerly of Cambridge and 24-yr-old male formerly of Somerville sustained non-fatal gunshot wounds. Over 30 shell casings recovered. Investigation is ongoing

Shooting Type

-  Shooting w/ Victim(s)
-  Shots Fired (no victims)



Robbery

No Patterns

- The five-year average for overall robbery in Cambridge for the first five months of the year is 25 incidents. The total through May 31st of 2021 was 22 crimes, three incidents below the number forecasted for that time period. Over the first five months of 2021, the 22 robberies that were recorded also translated to a 15% decrease (4 incidents) below the 26 robberies counted for the first 21 weeks of 2020.
- There were seven commercial robberies recorded in Cambridge during the first five months of this year, two more than were counted during the same time period of 2020. Two were armed robberies of convenience stores, one in Riverside in January, and the other a shoplifting that escalated into an armed confrontation on March 1st in Harvard Square. Warrants have been served for the suspect in the Riverside incident. Three other commercial robberies were shopliftings that became confrontational at a jewelry store in East Cambridge in late February, a grocery store in Riverside in early March and a drug store in Harvard Square at the end of April. The two commercial robberies that took place in May include a liquor store shoplifting-turned-robbery when the clerk was pushed (the suspect in this was stopped and summonsed for the crime) and a drug store robbery where two males jumped the pharmacy counter on 5/26.
- Over the first five months of 2021, there have been 15 street robberies, six fewer (-29%) than in the same time period last year. The measurable decline for street robbery can be attributed to the non-repetition of a series of street robberies of food delivery drivers that occurred during the first quarter of 2020. The five-year average for street robberies in Cambridge during the first five months of the year is 17, two more than the 15 incidents that were reported so far this year.
- There were five street robberies recorded during May of 2021: a purse snatch and a failed drug deal in Riverside, one late weekend night incident with a male walking alone in Mid-Cambridge, a carjacking outside 7-11 that resulted in an arrest, and a daytime incident in the Mt Auburn Hospital parking lot that also resulted in an arrest.

Percent Change

Last 4 Weeks

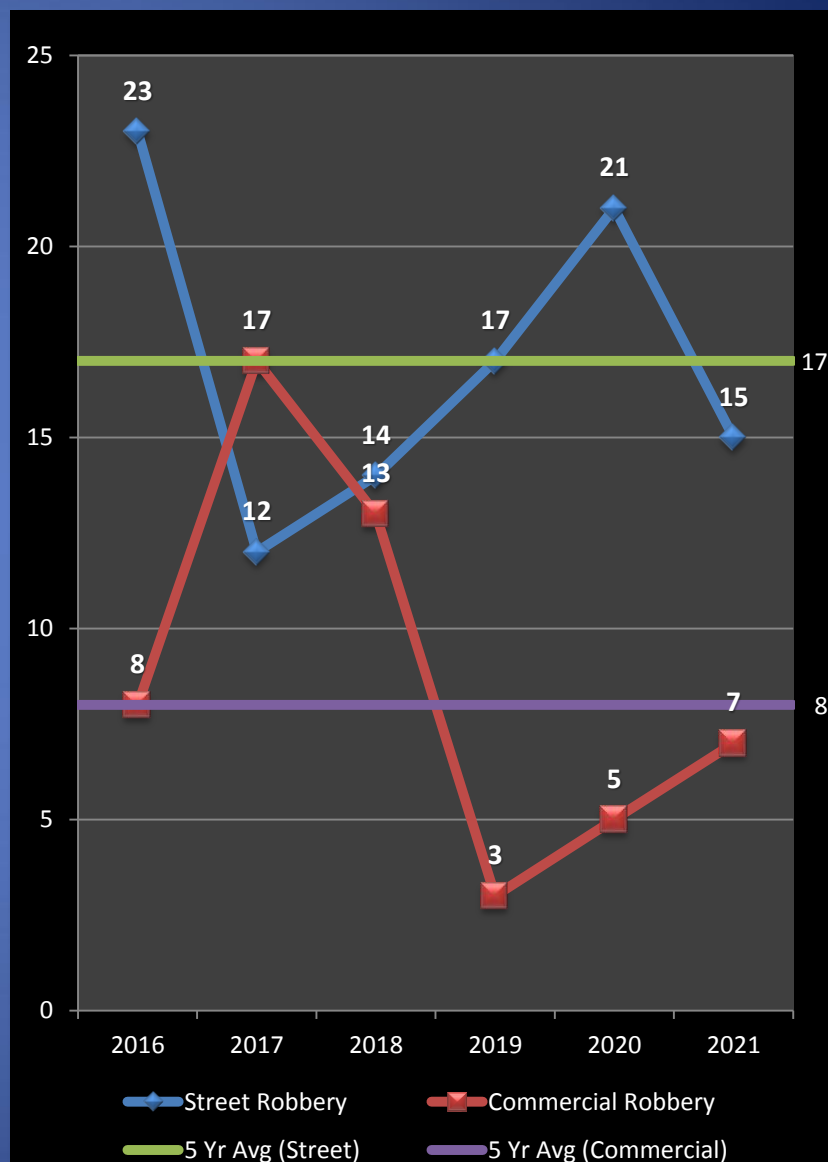
+133%

Previous Year

-15%

5-Year Average

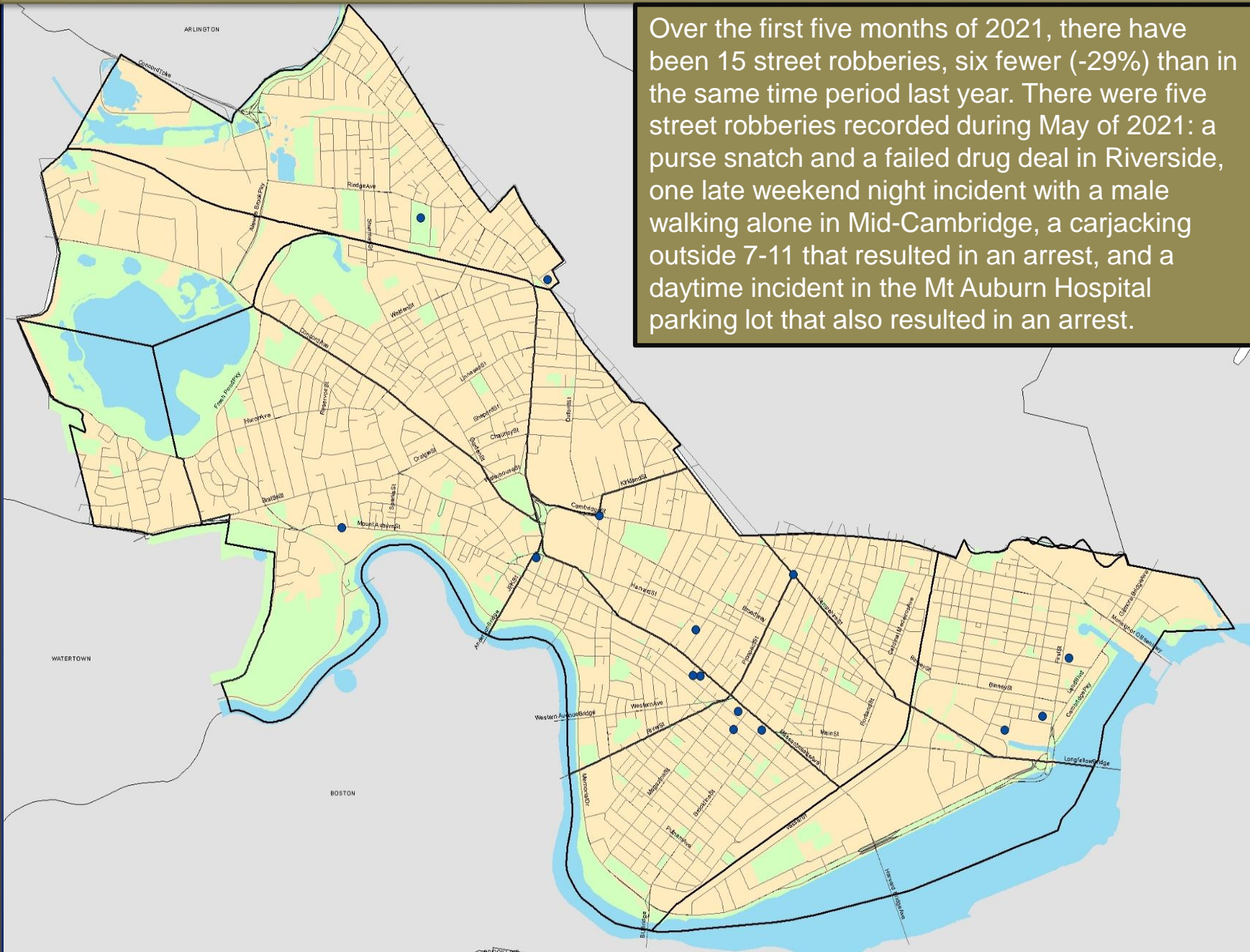
-21%





Geographic Breakdown of Street Robberies: 1.1.21 – 5.31.21

Over the first five months of 2021, there have been 15 street robberies, six fewer (-29%) than in the same time period last year. There were five street robberies recorded during May of 2021: a purse snatch and a failed drug deal in Riverside, one late weekend night incident with a male walking alone in Mid-Cambridge, a carjacking outside 7-11 that resulted in an arrest, and a daytime incident in the Mt Auburn Hospital parking lot that also resulted in an arrest.





Burglary

No Patterns

- The property index crime of burglary, the combination of residential and commercial breaks, has recorded a measurable decrease of 16% below the first five months of last year. When measured versus the five-year average of 89 burglaries, the total of 68 incidents in 2021 also indicates a decline of 21 incidents (-24%).
- Since the start of the COVID-19 period, the crime of commercial burglary has been on the rise. Commercial breaks have increased by 17% when compared with the first five months of 2020 and have inflated 56% over the forecasted number for the first five months of the year. Breakdown of commercial breaks through May 31st of 2021 by business area: Alewife – 6; Central Square – 5; Harvard Square – 4; 1500 to 1900 Mass Ave – 4; Kendall/MIT – 3; Bay Square – 2; Inman Square – 2; and Galleria/East – 2.
- Currently, there are no housebreak patterns in Cambridge. For the first five months of the year, a substantial decrease of 30% has been registered with 17 fewer crimes reported. Thirty-three of the 40 housebreaks counted in 2021 have been in the lower-half of the City.

Percent Change

Last 4 Weeks

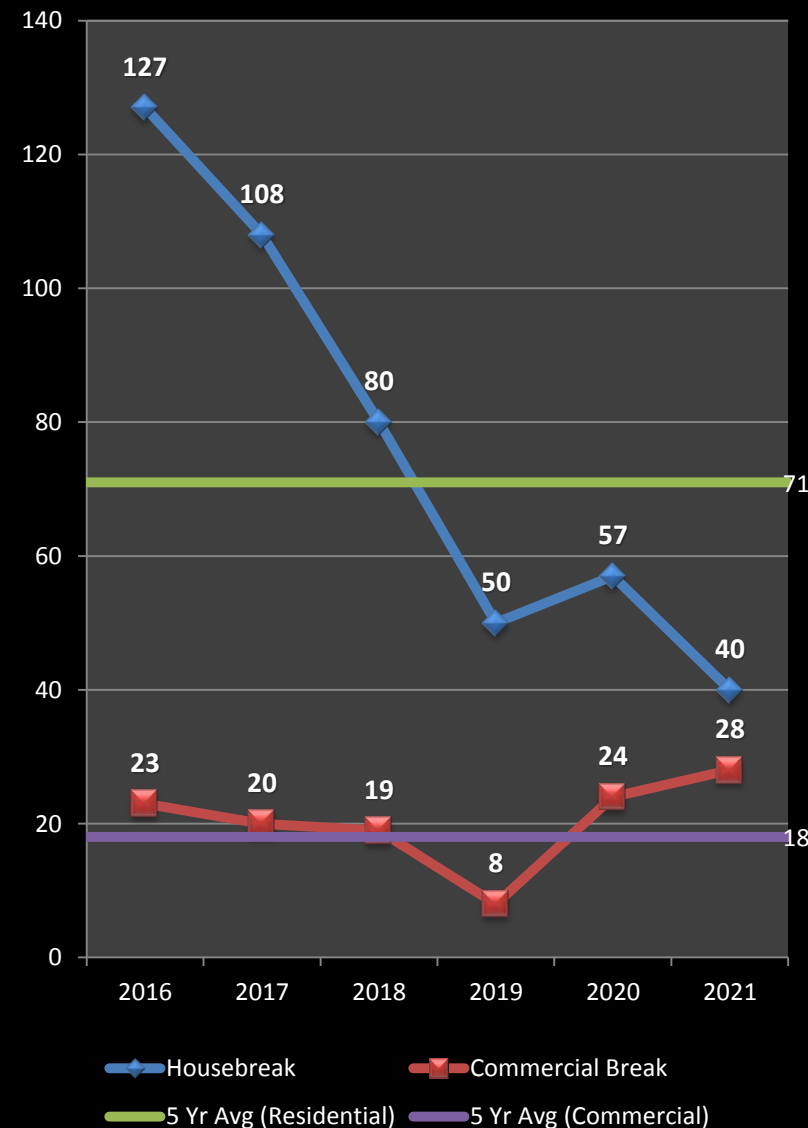
-10%

Previous Year

-16%

5-Year Average

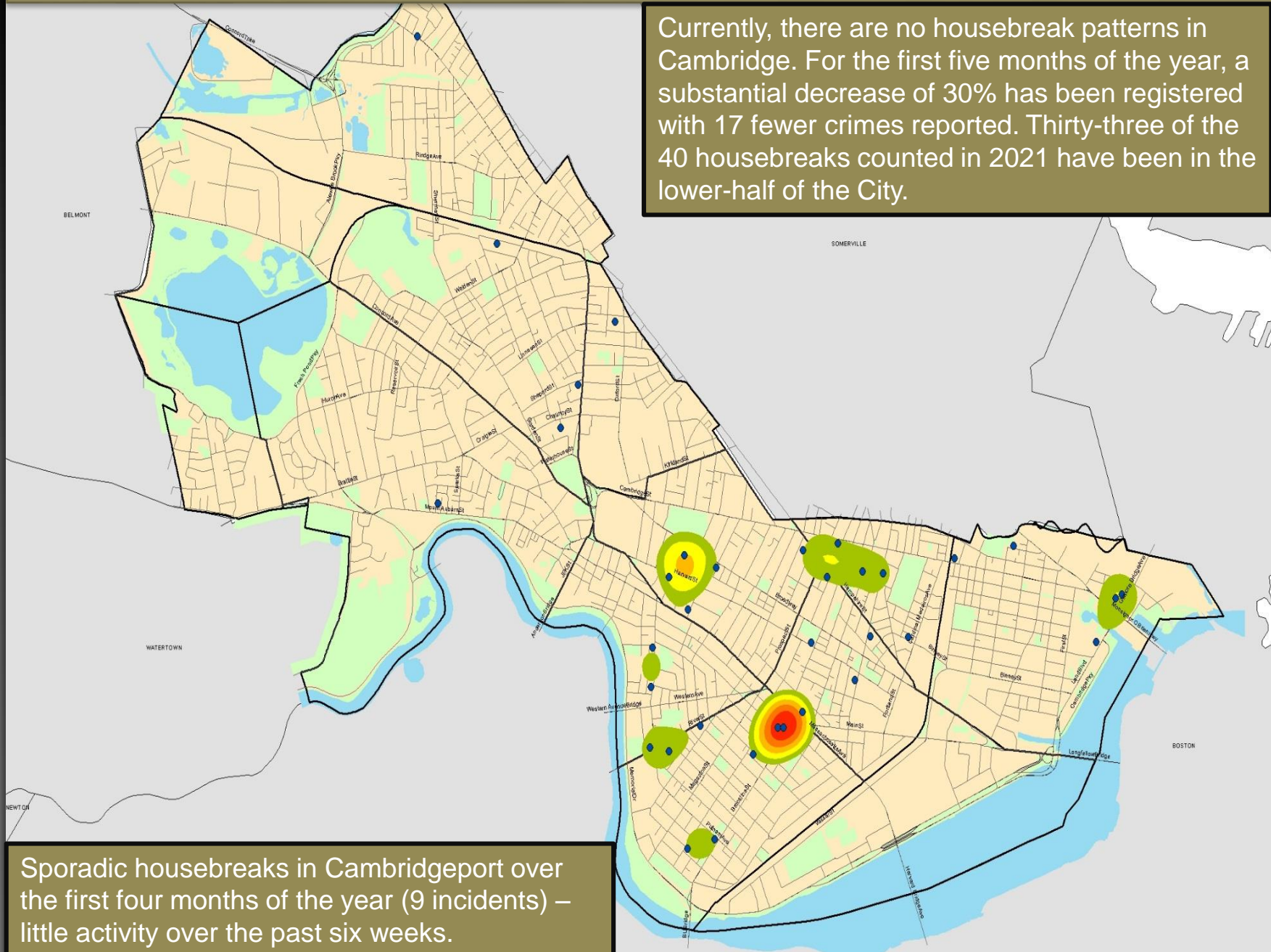
-24%





Geographic Breakdown of Housebreaks: 1.1.21 – 5.31.21

Currently, there are no housebreak patterns in Cambridge. For the first five months of the year, a substantial decrease of 30% has been registered with 17 fewer crimes reported. Thirty-three of the 40 housebreaks counted in 2021 have been in the lower-half of the City.



Sporadic housebreaks in Cambridgeport over the first four months of the year (9 incidents) – little activity over the past six weeks.



LARCENY From MV

No Patterns

- The larceny from motor vehicle total for the first five months of 2021 is 171 incidents, which is 24% above the total for the same time period in 2021. The 171 thefts from cars reported over the first 21 weeks of 2021 also indicates an increase of 58 incidents (+51%) above the number forecasted through May 31st of 2021. There was a minor increase of one incident in May (+4%) when measured against the previous month's total.
- The neighborhoods with the highest larceny from motor vehicle totals so far in 2021 are: Cambridgeport (37); Mid-Cambridge (24); Riverside (21); and Inman/Harrington (20). The neighborhoods with the lowest totals through the first five months of this year are the MIT, Highland, and Strawberry Hill neighborhoods.
- Catalytic converter thefts had been a regional issue with Cambridge not experiencing any until a series of thefts were reported by residents primarily in the Cambridgeport neighborhood between January 17-18. Another surge of thefts occurred in the Inman-Harrington and East Cambridge neighborhoods over the first two weeks of February. So far, there have been 47 thefts recorded across lower Cambridge and just one in upper Cambridge. The majority of catalytic converter thefts in Cambridge have involved 2004-2009 Toyota Priuses. Activity has slowed with two incidents reported in March, two in April, and one in May.

Percent Change

Last 4 Weeks

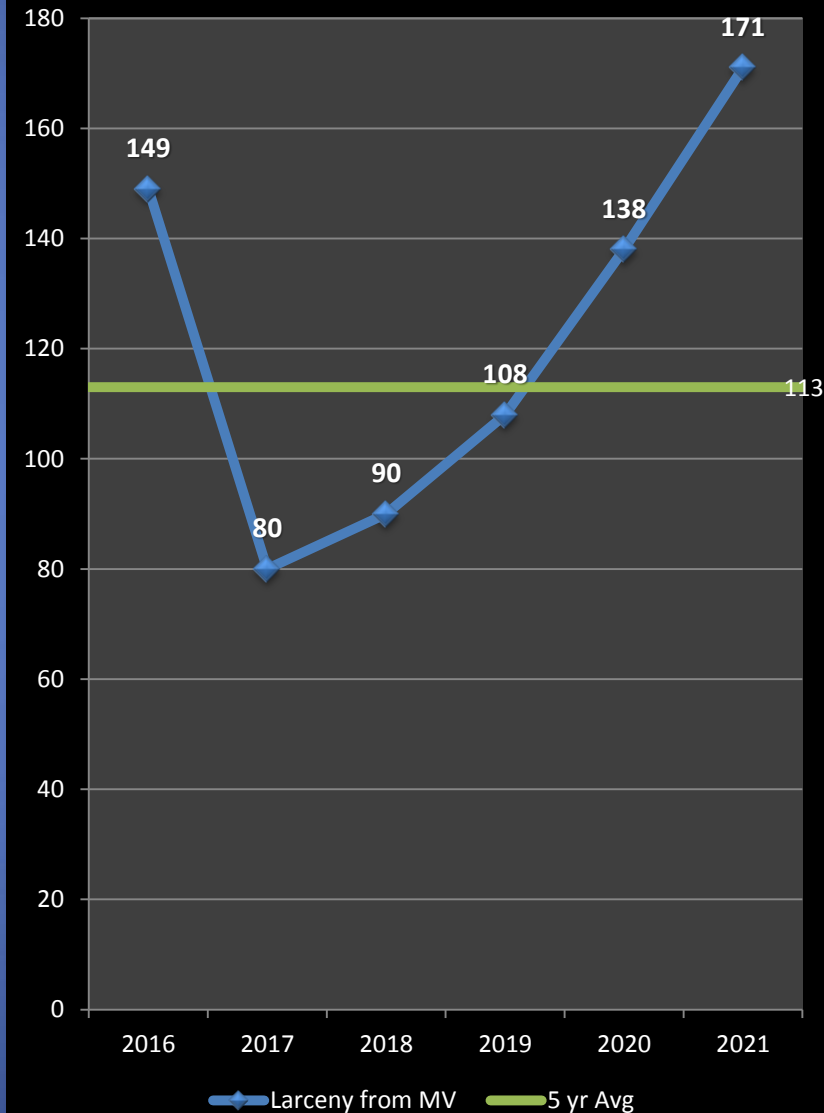
+4%

Previous Year

+24%

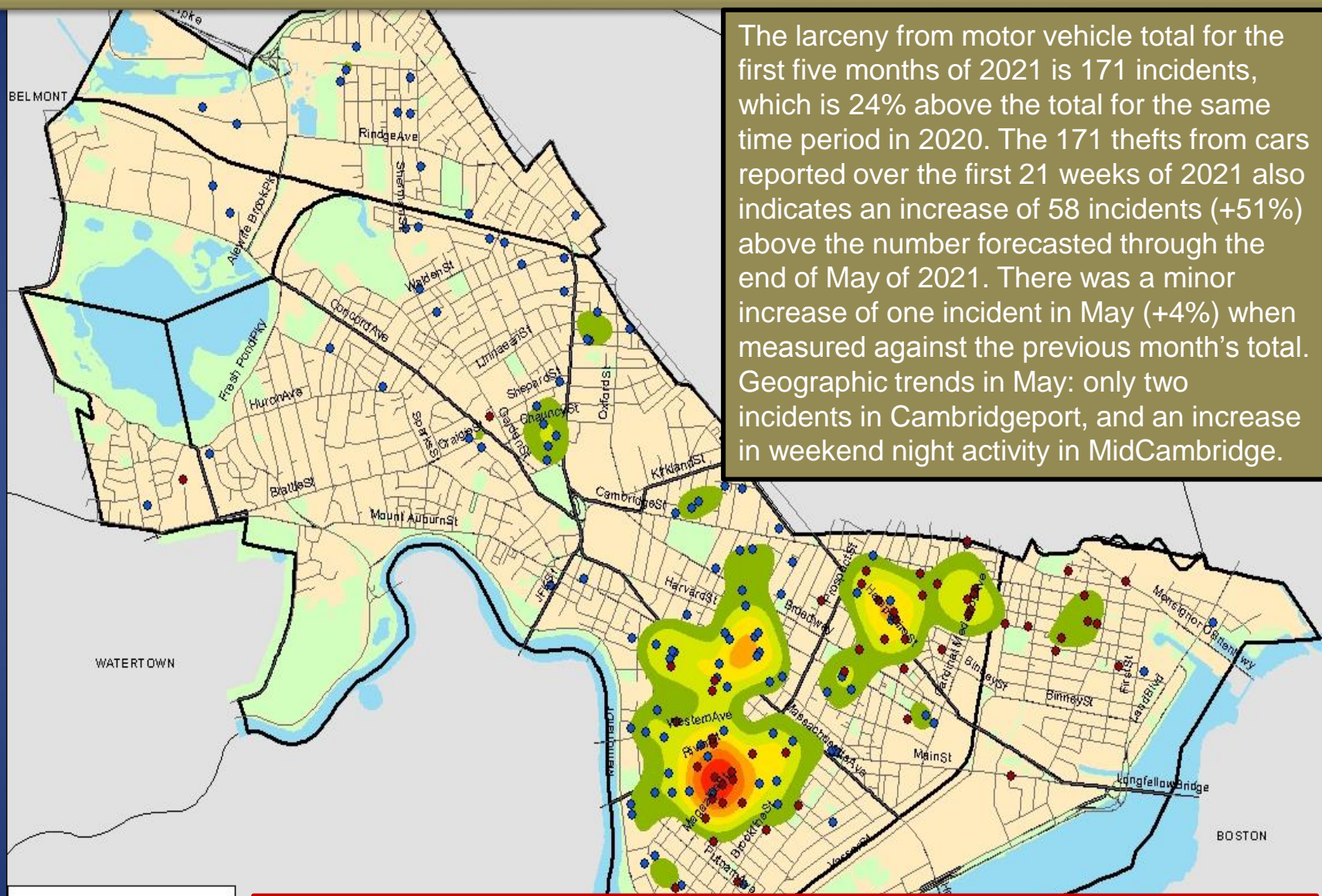
5-Year Average

+51%





Geographic Breakdown of Larceny from Motor Vehicles: 1.1.21 – 5.31.21



The larceny from motor vehicle total for the first five months of 2021 is 171 incidents, which is 24% above the total for the same time period in 2020. The 171 thefts from cars reported over the first 21 weeks of 2021 also indicates an increase of 58 incidents (+51%) above the number forecasted through the end of May of 2021. There was a minor increase of one incident in May (+4%) when measured against the previous month's total. Geographic trends in May: only two incidents in Cambridgeport, and an increase in weekend night activity in MidCambridge.

- Larceny from MV**
- On Exterior of MV
 - Larceny from MV

Catalytic converter thefts are a regional issue with Cambridge not experiencing any until a series of thefts were reported primarily in the Cambridgeport neighborhood between January 17-18. Another surge of thefts occurred in the Inman-Harrington and East Cambridge neighborhoods over the first two weeks of February. So far, there have been 47 thefts recorded across lower Cambridge and just one in upper Cambridge.



LARCENY of Bicycle

No Patterns

- Bicycle thefts continue to be one of the major property crimes seen in 2021, incurring a dramatic 70% increase in 2021 when compared with the same time period in 2020, and up 136% (+132 thefts) above the 5-year average.
- A little over half of the bike thefts this year have taken place in the lower half of the city, with 129 of the 229 reported south/east of Harvard Square. However, there are hot spots in North Cambridge and the Highlands that account for a large number of the thefts in the northern part of the City.
- Although the majority of bicycles tend to be stolen from streets, sidewalks, and yards, similar to last year we continue to see an increase in thefts from personal garages, parking garages, and building storage areas.
- Of the 229 bike thefts reported thus far in 2021, 184 (80%) were reportedly locked at the time of the theft.
- A few homeless individuals have been found in possession of bikes that were reported stolen this year.

Top Neighborhoods for Bike Theft in 2021

Neighborhood	YTD Total	% Citywide
North Cambridge	49	21%
Cambridgeport	40	17%
Riverside	36	16%
East Cambridge	20	9%
Mid Cambridge	20	9%
The Port	12	5%

Percent Change

Last 4 Weeks

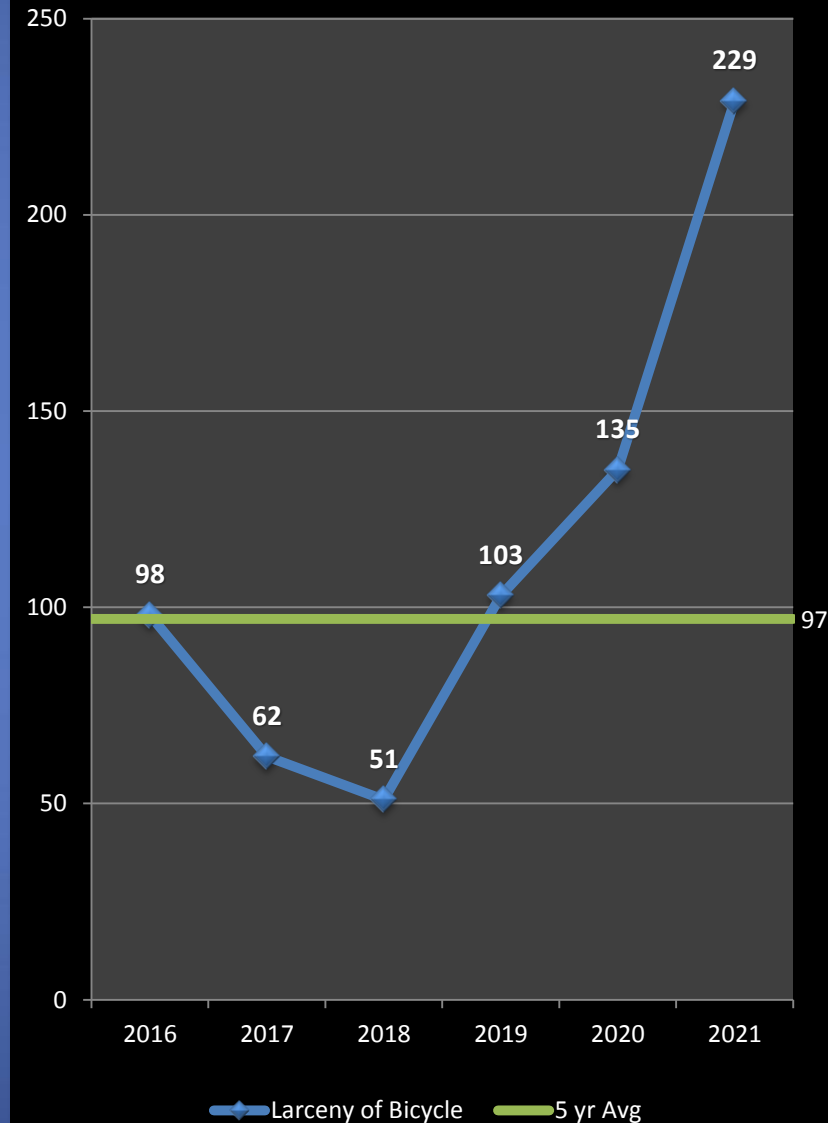
+33%

Previous Year

+70%

5-Year Average

+136%

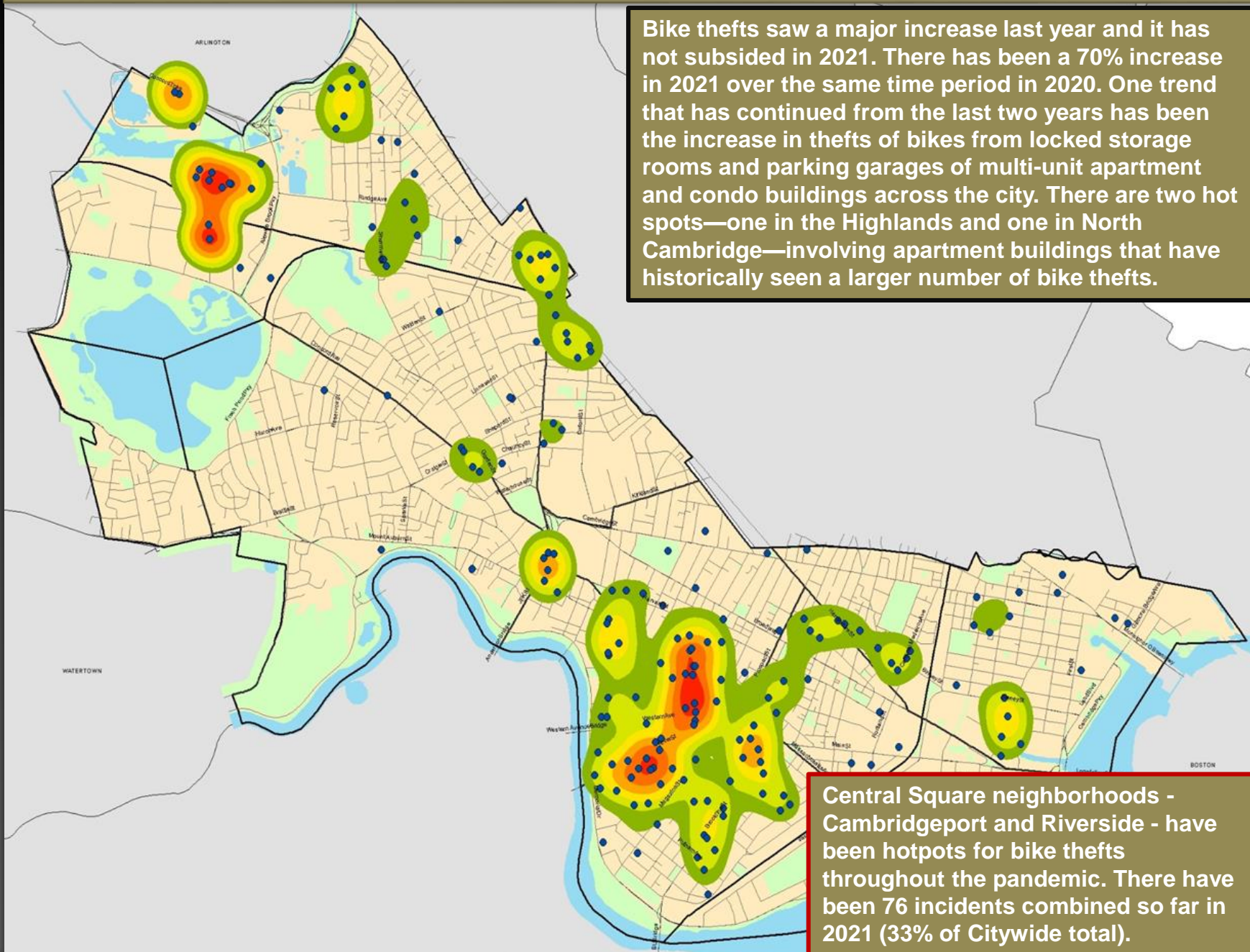




Geographic Breakdown of Larceny of Bicycles: 1.1.21 – 5.31.21

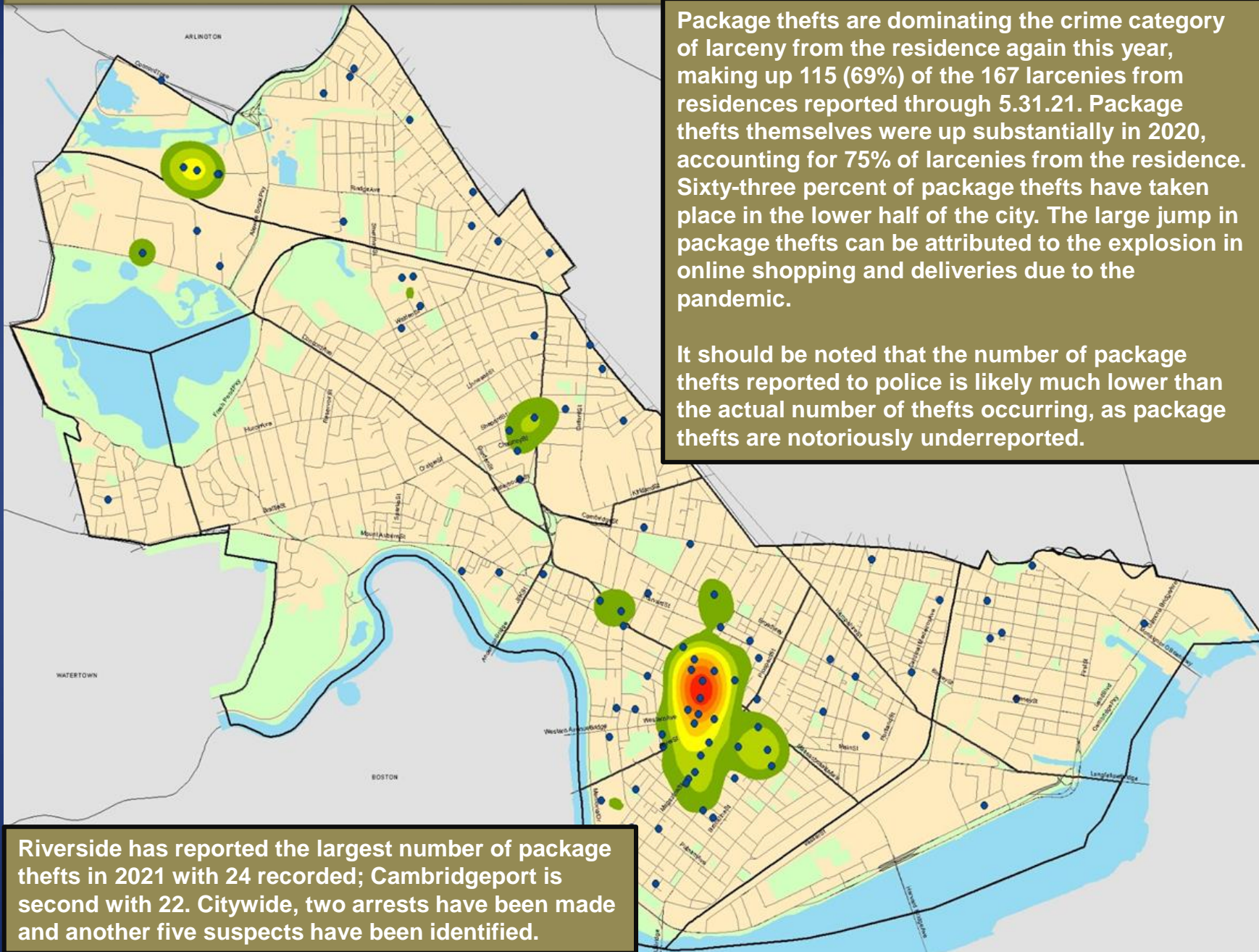
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May
2021





Geographic Breakdown of Package Thefts: 1.1.21 – 5.31.21



Package thefts are dominating the crime category of larceny from the residence again this year, making up 115 (69%) of the 167 larcenies from residences reported through 5.31.21. Package thefts themselves were up substantially in 2020, accounting for 75% of larcenies from the residence. Sixty-three percent of package thefts have taken place in the lower half of the city. The large jump in package thefts can be attributed to the explosion in online shopping and deliveries due to the pandemic.

It should be noted that the number of package thefts reported to police is likely much lower than the actual number of thefts occurring, as package thefts are notoriously underreported.

Riverside has reported the largest number of package thefts in 2021 with 24 recorded; Cambridgeport is second with 22. Citywide, two arrests have been made and another five suspects have been identified.



Help Prevent Crime

And keep yourself informed!

To receive information from the CPD:

- Sign up with for the **Cambridge Alert Network**, to receive alerts about emerging crime patterns, neighborhood meetings, and crime prevention tips, by visiting www.CambridgeMa.gov/AlertNetwork.
- “Like” the Cambridge Police Department on Facebook at www.facebook.com/CambridgePolice
- Follow [@CambridgePolice](https://twitter.com/CambridgePolice) on Twitter.
- Visit our website at www.CambridgePolice.org for valuable information and reports including the Daily Log and BridgeStat, which is published on the first Friday of every month.
- Download our “MyPD” smartphone app at www.CambridgePolice.org/MyPD.

To Share Information with the CPD:

- Call our Non-Emergency Telephone Number at **617-349-3300**.
 - Every call for service generates a police response, so help drive our resources by reporting things that seem suspicious or out of the ordinary.
- Send an Anonymous TEXT-A-TIP:
 - Send an ANONYMOUS text message to **Tip411 (847411)**. Begin your message with Tip650 and then type your message. You will receive a response from the Cambridge Police with the option to continue communicating. Please remember that this is not a replacement for 9-1-1. **If you witness an emergency situation, please call 9-1-1 immediately.**
- Send an Anonymous Crime Tip E-Mail at www.CambridgePolice.org/Tips